

VISIT...

LANZAROTE
Caliente.COM

PREEEEEESENTING...
ANOTHER FINE MESS,
ER, SCAN, THAT IS, BY
THE "GENTLESCAN GHOST",
BEASTCHARMING! FOR
YOUR READING PLEASURE:
EXCALIBUR #23



MARVEL
COMICS



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APPROVED BY THE
COMICS CODE
AUTHORITY

THE CROSS-TIME CAPER™ EXCALIBUR™



*The Death of
Kitty Pryde!*

STAN LEE PRESENTS

HERE COMES *the* JUDGE

by CHRIS CLAREMONT
& ALAN DAVIS

I'VE
FOUND
THEM--

--EXCALIBUR!

POOR
BAY-BEES.
THEY
LOOK SO
FORLORN.

ARE THEY
AFRAID THEY'LL
SPEND THE REST
OF ETERNITY
WANDERING
CROSS-TIME...

FROM ONE
PARALLEL
EARTH TO
ANOTHER...

NEVER TO
RETURN TO
THEIR HOME
DIMENSION?

OR WORSE--
TO RETURN AND THEN
LEAVE BECAUSE THEY
DIDN'T REALIZE UNTIL
IT WAS TOO LATE
THEY'D STUMBLED
ON THE RIGHT ONE?

I BET
HADES
ITSELF
COULDN'T
PROVIDE
A MORE
VICIOUS
TORMENT.

PAUL NEARY
INKER
TOM ORZECZOWSKI
KEVIN CLIMMINGHAM
LETTERS
GLYNIS OLIVER
COLORIST
TERRY KAVANAGH
EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO
DESK SERGEANT
CLAREMONT & DAVIS
CREATORS

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COMING FROM YOU, ILLYANA, THAT'S QUITE AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

ONE OF THE PERKS, MY DEAR, OF BEING A DEMON SORCERESS.

VISIT ALL THE BEST PLACES, HOBNOB WITH THE MOST FASCINATING PEOPLE.

WHY SHOULDN'T THEY BE SAD?

AT LEAST, WHATEVER HAPPENS, THEY'LL FACE IT TOGETHER.



BARRING A MIRACLE, THEY'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THEIR MISSING TEAMMATE, KITTY PRYDE.

IMAGINE HOW HAPPY THEY'LL BE THEN, SHADOWCAT...

...TO SEE YOU!

I SHOULD CERTAINLY HOPE SO!

CONSIDERING HOW LONG THEY'VE KEPT ME WAITING.



BOSS! JUSTICERS!

IT'S A RAID!!



DELAY THEM, AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.

b-b-b-b-b-BUT...

...IT'S JUSTICER BULL!

DO AS YOU'RE TOLD...

...OR I'LL BE VERY VERY CROSS.

THAT GOES DOUBLE FOR YOU, MAGIK!



YES, MA'AM. RIGHT AWAY, MA'AM. YOUR WISH, MA'AM. AS EVER--!

BRING EXCALIBUR HERE, A.S.A.P. YOU BETCHA!

WELL-- NOW THAT I'VE CONJURED AN ETHEREAL SIMULACRUM OF YOU...



...AND SENT IT ON ITS WAY...

...THE JOB'S AS GOOD AS DONE!

WHEN FIRST HE SAW THE COSMIC LIGHT-SHOW THAT LIT UP THE UNIVERSE EACH TIME THE TEAM MADE A CROSS-TIME JAUNT...

...ALISTAIRE STUART WAS NEARLY BESIDE HIMSELF WITH DELIGHT AT THE INDESCRIBABLE WONDER OF IT ALL.

THAT WAS A WHILE AGO, AND MORE WORLDS BACK THAN HE CARES TO COUNT.

THE FUN, EVEN FOR HIM, HAS BEGUN TO FALL.

WHAT IS THERE ABOUT YOU, YOU PERISHING LITTLE WIDGET...

...THAT MAKES YOU SO BLASTED OBDURATE ??

WHY CAN'T YOU SIMPLY DO AS WE SAY! OW!!

ENOUGH OF THAT, BUSTER!

WIDGET, STOP! NO MORE!

MEGGAN, IS ALISTAIRE--??

JUST STUNNED, I THINK, NIGHTCRAWLER!

HE'S NEVER MADE AN AGGRESSIVE AC BEFORE.

DIDN'T THINK HE HAD IT IN HIM.

HEY, PAL I KNOW YOU MISS KITTY!

--FOR ANY OF US, PROFESSOR STUART--

--TO BEHAVE LIKE SUCH A BRAT--

EXCALIBUR'S A TEAM, WIDGET.

WE STAND TOGETHER, WE DEPEND ON EACH OTHER, NO MATTER WHAT!

WE EVER LOSE THAT, WE REALLY ARE--

KITTY?!?

MOVIE ZOWIE!

EVER WONDER WHAT
WOULD HAPPEN IF
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
GOT TOTALLY OUT
OF HAND?

NO RULES, NO
RESTRICTIONS.

BUILD ANYWHERE
YOU WANT, ANY
WAY YOU LIKE.

BUT WITHIN THIS
CONCRETE JUNGLE,
REMAINS A
POPULACE OF
HUMAN BEINGS,
AND CONSEQUENTLY...

...A NEED
FOR SOMEONE
TO KEEP
THEM IN
LINE.

AS KIT
PRYDE'S
ADVOCATE...

...I MOST
VEHEMENTLY
PROTEST--!

YOU SHOULD'VE
STAYED DEAD,
DOUG RAMSEY!

...BUT SHE'S
ABOUT TO
LEARN--THE
HARD WAY--

--THAT
NOBODY
STANDS
ABOVE THE
LAW!

...RIGHT TO HER
DOORSTEP--!

THAT
FLASH!

IT WAS
A LEGAL
RESURRECTION,
JUSTICE
BULL!

UNLIKE
THIS
SEARCH.

YOUR BOSS
MAY LIVE IN
THE TALLEST
TOWER IN
THIS LAND,
SHYSTER...

WE'VE IRREFUTABLE
PROOF LEADING EVERY
MAJOR CRIMINAL ENTER-
PRISE IN THE REALM...

GOOD
GOLLY,
MISS
MOLLY!

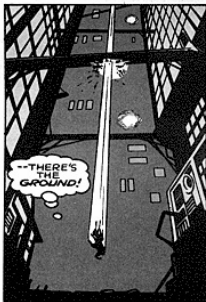
YOU WANT,
BOSS,
YOU GOT!













HER FALL WAS AS
OUT OF CONTROL
AS MINE--

--THERE
SHE IS!
SHE
SET THE
SURFACE
ABLAZE.



CAN'T WASTE
TIME SEARCHING FOR
A CLEAR SPOT.

HAVE TO
PUNCH RIGHT
THROUGH THE
FLAMES



MEGGAN--? IT'S THE
BRIAN!

WATER'S
EVEN MORE
AWFUL!

THE WHOLE
WORLD'S
POISON!

HOW
CAN THEY
ENDURE SUCH
POLLUTION?

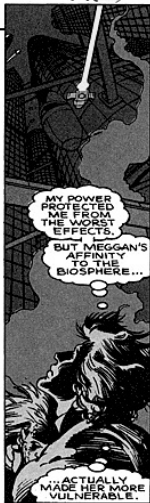


A HUMAN
KNACK, I
SUPPOSE...

...FOR
GETTING
USED TO
ANYTHING.

OUR NATIVE
ENVIRONMENT
FOR ALL THE
DAMAGE
WE'VE DONE...

...MUST SEEM
LIKE PARADISE
COMPARED
TO THIS.



MY POWER
PROTECTED
ME FROM THE
WORST
EFFECTS.

BUT MEGGAN'S
AFFINITY
TO THE
BIOSPHERE...

...ACTUALLY
MADE HER MORE
VULNERABLE.

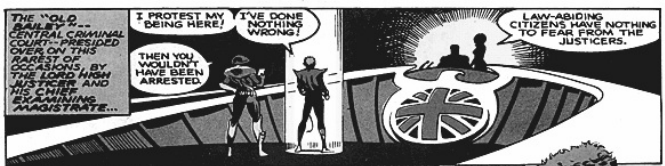


CITY
REACHES SO
HIGH...

...CAN'T
EVEN SEE
THE SKY.

THE
ATLANTIC
OCEAN'S
LITTLE MORE
THAN ITS
SEWER.

MEG AND KITTY
NEED HELP--
DESPERATELY--BUT
WE'RE EVIDENTLY
CRIMINAL HERES WHO
DO I TURN TO?
WHERE DO I GO?!





COULD BE WORSE, CHUM.

IF YOU'D BEEN FOUND TO POSSESS SUPER-POWERS...

...THEN YOU'D HAVE BEEN IN REAL TROUBLE.



WELL, THAT CERTAINLY MAKES ME FEEL BETTER.

DON'T GET COMFY. TRANSFER SHUTTLE LIFTS WITHIN THE HOUR.

THIS IS A NIGHTMARE!

KURT WAGNER.

ISN'T THERE SOME WAY OF STOPPING THEM?

AND THEN SOME.

I'M DAVEY BANNER.

HELP ME! HELP ME!



SHO' NUFF

GET UPPITY, GET DEAD, TROUBLES'RE OVER.

A LITTLE TOO DRASTIC, THAT, FOR MY TASTE.

WHAT'S HAPPENING OVER--?!

I TOLD YOU, GET AWAY!

A WOMAN--! I KNOW THAT VOICE!!



YOU HAD THE LADY--

--LEAVE HER ALONE--

OR YOU'LL ANSWER TO ME!



MEG?

DON'T BE FRIGHTENED. I MEAN NO HARM. I'M A FRIEND.

WHUZZAT?

NOT OUR MEGGAN.

THIS WORLD'S VERSION OF HER, A WILD CREATURE WHO'S NEVER KNOWN KINDNESS. WHO DIDN'T GET THE CHANCE, AS OURS DID, TO BLOSSOM TO HER FULL POTENTIAL. AND THANKS TO THE JUSTICERS, NEVER WILL.

BACK DOWN BELOW...

ARE THESE PEOPLE
SLIDING DOWN THE
EVOLUTIONARY SCALE...

...OR
CREATURES
CLIMBING
UP?

OR SOME OBSCENE
MIX OF THE TWO
A WHOLE NEW SPECIES--
THIS CITY'S
EQUIVALENT TO
THE COCKROACH?

WHICHEVER,
THEY'RE AS
AGGRESSIVE AS
THEY APPEAR
BLOODTHIRSTY.



I'M GIVING
MY ALL--

--BUT
--BUT THEY
KEEP ON
COMING!



BEEN AN
AGE SINCE I'VE
BEEN ABLE TO
CUT LOOSE WITHOUT
WORRYING ABOUT
THE CONSEQUENCES.

BUT I'D BE
ENJOYING
MYSELF A
LOT MORE...



...IF I
WEREN'T
LOSING!



BRIAN, ARE
YOU ALL
RIGHT?!



GLORY!

MEGGAN, WHAT
HAVE YOU DONE
TO YOURSELF?!



MY SHAPE-CHANGING
POWER THE ONLY
BODY I NEED TO SURVIVE
HERE, AND SAVE YOU.

SORRY THE
TRANSFORMATION
TOOK SO
LONG.

BETTER
LATE
THAN
NEVER.

THAT'S IT, YOU BUGS!
SCAMPER BACK TO YOUR
HIDEY-HOLES! AND IF YOU
KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR
YOU--

-- STAY
THERE!

NICE...
MOVES.

WISH
I HAD
SOME OF
THE SAME...
FOR MYSELF.



DON'T TRY TO
TALK, KITTY.

SAVE...
ADVICE...
FOR SOMEONE
WHO NEEDS
IT, 'KAY?

DON'T
TALK
LIKE
THAT!

WE'LL GET YOU TO A
HOSPITAL. THEY'LL FIX
YOU UP FINE.

BE
=kaff
kaff
=REAL.

WEIRD
SENSATION...
FEELING *graggh*...
LINGS MELT...
WITH EVERY
BREATH.



LISTEN
IT WAS
ILLYANA
I
TRUSTED
HER.

MY BEST
FRIEND
AND
SHE DID
ME THE
DIRTY



SAVE YOUR
STRENGTH,
PLEASE!

NO
TIME!

DON'T *haggh*
LET HER *haggh* GET
AWAY WITH THIS
HAGGH PROMISE ME
GIRL MAKE
HER PAY *haggh*
HAGGH
PROMISSSSS



MEGGAN,
SHE'S...

MEGGAN?!?

MOVE
ALONG, FUNNY
FACES--

--DON'T
DAWDLE, WE'VE
PLACES TO GO
AND SCHEDULES
TO KEEP

JUSTICER
CADBURY--

--REMEMBER WHAT
YOU SAID ABOUT MY
NOT HAVING
SUPER-POWERS?

?

GUESS
WHAT!

BAM!

SOK!

MIND YOU, A
MINOR DRAW-
BACK IS THAT
I CAN ONLY
PULL THIS
STUNT...

...ABOUT
ONCE A
DAY.

WHAT ARE
YOU
WAITING FOR,
MEGGAN?

COME
ON!

SOMETIMES,
THE
WORLD...

NIGHTCRAWLER,
BEW
ARGH!

THIS IS
MADNESS!

...NEEDS
A LITTLE
MADNESS.

MEGGAN!

I'LL GET YOU
TO A DOCTOR!

NONE... I'M
OUTCAST SAME
AS YOU.

SIDES, NO
HEALING FOR A
"RIPPER" SHELL
GUARANTEED
KILL EVERY HIT.





NIGHTCRAWLER
IS HERE!

YOU WON'T
SUCCEED IN
ENSLAVING HIM--
OR PHOENIX,
OR PROFESSOR
STUART--

--ANYMORE THAN YOU DID
IN MURDERING ME.

SO YOU
COULD
GAIN
CONTROL
OF MY
EMPIRE.

WANNA
BET?!

I BUILT THAT
EMPIRE, SWEETIE--
EVEN IF YOU
HOGGED ALL THE
CREDIT--

--IT'S
MINE
BY
RIGHT!

HEEE!

Ow!
THIS
MEAN,
JUSTY...

...WE
AIN'T
PAWS
NO MORE?

AIN'T
THAT A
CRYING
SHAME!
TOO
BAD--
FOR
YOU--

...THE
DARK-
CHILDE...

...DOESN'T
DIE...

...QUITE
LIKE
EVERYBODY
ELSE!





I'M NO MATCH FOR THE DARKCHILDE.

BUT MY OWN PSIONIC ABILITIES CAN RESTORE THE STRENGTH OF ONE WHO IS!



HI THERE.

REMEMBER ME?



BEAT YOU ONCE, DO IT AGAIN.

NOT ON THE BEST DAY...



...OF YOUR ENTIRE MISDEEDS EXISTENCE!

DUNNO WHETHER YOU WERE POSSESSED, KIDDO...

...OR IF THIS WAS THE MANIFESTATION OF SOME PART OF YOU TURNED MAJORLY BAD.



DOESN'T MUCH MATTER, THOUGH, 'CAUSE THAT POWER'S GONE. FOR GOOD.

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH...

...YOU'RE A KID AGAIN.



A NEAR THING.

WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR HELP.

I MERELY DID WHAT HAD TO BE DONE.

AS MUST I, M'LUD.

YOU'RE ALL UNDER ARREST?

YOU REALIZE, IF YOUR LORD HIGH JUSTICER AND HIS SISTER HADN'T REVEALED THEIR TRUE NATURES, YOU'D BE DEAD, BULL, AND YOUR WORLD UNDER THE DARKCHILDE'S DOMINION!

HE WAS FULFILLING THE OBLIGATION OF ONE JUSTICER TO ANOTHER. AS AM I, TO THE LAW--

POINT OF INFORMATION, OLD DARLING: IT'S ILLEGAL TO BE A "SUPER-BEING," YES?

YES.

-- WHICH HE HAS BETRAYED.

MIND TELLING ME WHAT CONSTITUTES ONE?

IN THE GENERALLY ACCEPTED SENSE OF THE TERM-- A SKINTIGHT COSTUME, MARKED WITH AN IDENTIFYING LOGO, THAT SHOWCASES AND ENHANCES THE SUBJECT'S INHUMANLY SPECTACULAR PHYSIQUE...

...A MASK THAT HIDES THE FACIAL FEATURES AND IS INTENDED TO INTIMIDATE ANY FOES...

...AND OF COURSE PARA-HUMAN PHYSICAL OR MENTAL ABILITIES.

YOU REALIZE THAT DESCRIPTION COVERS YOU JUSTICERS.

WERE THAT THE CASE, WE'D HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO ARREST OURSELVES.

THERE'S A BRILLIANT SOLUTION.

HOW'D SUCH A SILLY LAW GET ENACTED IN THE FIRST PLACE?

THIS WORLD WAS ALMOST DESTROYED BY WAR, NIGHT-CRAWLERS, BETWEEN ITS SUPER-BEINGS. I WAS ONE OF THE FEW SUPER-POWERED SURVIVORS, BUT FOR ALL MY ABILITIES, I WASN'T ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH THE OTHERS.

SO, I CREATED A FORCE OF SPECIALLY CHOSEN AND TRAINED OPERATIVES, TO BRING THEM TO JUSTICE.

AND IT WORKED. TOO WELL. BECAUSE NOW, FOR THE "GOOD" OF THE STATE...

...THE INNOCENT-- WHO ONLY SEEK TO LIVE OUT THEIR LIVES AS PEACEFULLY AS NORMAL FOLK-- FIND THEMSELVES CONDEMNED SIMPLY FOR EXISTING.

THE LAW IS ABSOLUTE BUT NOT IMMUTABLE. PERHAPS IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE.

BUT THAT IN NO WAY ABSOLVES YOU STRANGERS OF YOUR CRIMES.

STRETCH A POINT.

GIVE US A CHANCE, WE'LL BE ON OUR WAY. YOU'LL NEVER SEE US AGAIN.

I'VE A LOT OF PAPERWORK TO CATCH UP ON. SHOULD KEEP ME BUSY TILL ABOUT SUNDOWN...

AFTER THAT, I SEE HIDE OR HAIR OF YOU...

...YOU'RE MINE!

NEXT: TEMPTING FATES!

SWORD STROKES

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

TERRY KAVANAGH
EDITOR
KELLY CORVESE
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: If you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear Sword Strokes,

Hey, Guys! This is just a generally perky letter to tell you people that you're doing the job right! EXCALIBUR is everything the devoted fan could dream of! It's witty, slapstick, serious, involved, twisted, wonderfully drawn, perfectly penciled and written like I someday hope to. I wouldn't dare to even try to suggest anything to you guys. You obviously know what you're doing.

However, I would like to make a general comment. EXCALIBUR is the only thing that allowed me to keep my faith in the Marvel Universe. For a while there last year my beloved POWER PACK was in what was possibly the worst slump of its slumpy career. The UNCANNY X-MEN had begun its gradual decline to its present low level, and the NEW MUTANTS and X-FACTOR storylines were going nowhere—fast!

However, through it all, EXCALIBUR remained a creative light on the horizon. Now, finally, POWER PACK is showing signs of becoming worthy of its potential (plug, plug, for all you comics purchasers out there), X-FACTOR is in a plot that has been thoroughly enjoyable despite its total irrelevance to everything else that's going on in the Universe, and even the X-MEN is looking up. Only the NEW MUTANTS remain lost, and even they could be unexpectedly saved by a little quick action on somebody's part. EXCALIBUR was there first, however, and for that you have my eternal respect, my admiration, and my undying support.

May Excalibur never be sheathed, and until the Punisher accidentally cracks a grin, Make Mine Marvel!

David Thill
Box 934
Grande Prairie, AB
T8V 4Y3

We're glad we helped you maintain faith in the Marvel Universe during your trying period with our other books, David. Hope you'll check out THE NEW MUTANTS in the near future, because with a hot new direction, hot new characters, and hot new artist Rob Liefeld, it should be right up there on your must get list along with EXCALIBUR!

Dear EXCALIBUR,

The weirdness of the Cross-Time Capers fits the soul of the Excalibur team like a glove. Of all the Marvel mutant teams, this one has the most occasions for levity while retaining that intelligence that makes the difference between trash and drama. The "background" guest appearance of recognizable characters of the "real" world add to that depth and heighten the humor. Please continue everything you have been doing so far, including:

1) Katherine's maturation process. Let her discover her full potential as a genius/martial artist/mutant hero on her own, in a series of experiences that require her to draw on those abilities. Also, give her enough credit to accept her losses (i.e. Alistair) and look onward. A crush that never develops does hurt, but she's not the little girl that once fell in and out of love with Colossus anymore. Speaking of old Pete, maybe she can reflect more and more on what they had, and really get serious when they meet again,

like they had better, if you guys know what's good for you!

2) Captain Britain's humanity. Brian was always portrayed as only too human with his struggle against alcoholism, so don't change him. Sure the big guy has a great relationship with Meggan, but that doesn't mean those things can't change, like they seem to be doing. If he is too blind to return the devotion she shows to him upon occasion, he doesn't deserve her, and will eventually lose her. Just like a "real" relationship.

3) Rachel's struggles. Never, ever let her control the Phoenix effect like a light switch; make her come to grips with it, realizing exactly what it means that "with great power comes great responsibility." Sounds familiar doesn't it? She is aware of this right now, but her fears limit her comprehension. She must change that terror of a loss of control to respect instead, and will gain in power and control thereby.

4) Kurt's love for life. With all of the anti-religious portrayals, the entire church seems to be against mutants at times; see Rahne's persecution in the NEW MUTANTS, or the Reverend Stryker of past X-MEN fame, among others. Keep those with faith in God striving to make room on Earth for all His children, mutant and otherwise. Kurt's struggles with his faith have left him seemingly empty of any remnants of what he had before the Beyonder escapade; give him back his focus.

5) Alistair's blatant stupidity. As long as he goes chasing every gorgeous skirt that twirls his way, all the while ignoring the prize he might have had in Kitty, she will remain safe and sound for Peter's eventual return.

Remember these are suggestions—not complaints! The only thing you can do to lose my readership has been mentioned previously, so continue the team's convoluted evolutions which force us to buy your magazine. Remember: Bring back Peter! Nobody else will do for Katherine Pryde.

Until it's Katherine Stewart, Make Mine Marvel!

William E. Lawrence,
Midshipman Third Class, USN

Dear EXCALIBUR,

To begin with, I like your interesting and humorous covers. Issue #17 was no exception. The alien "beauty pageant" was a scream! Plus, getting a taste of the Davis and Neary artwork to be found inside, how could anyone resist buying this book?

I thoroughly enjoyed this issue for several reasons. Here they are:

1) Did I mention the artwork? Not since Neal Adams have I admired an illustrator or illustrators so much. I'm not familiar with Dennis Jensen's work, which we'll see next issue, but I'll be positive about it for now.

2) Having a not-so-omniscient, hooded Kitty relating Excalibur's adventure was a refreshing and surprising method of story-telling.

3) Chris Claremont continues to live up to his reputation of excellence. Although I am also interested in his current X-MEN storyline, I sense that Chris has a special fondness for EXCALIBUR. I know that I do.

4) Finally, I could go on forever, the ending made a perfect unexpected twist to an

issue full of twists: Kitty as storyteller; the 'deaths' of most of Excalibur; the hounds and Jean Grey; Phoenix's role as warrior; etc. Please, let us see Xavier and friends soon!

Thank you for making this fine book. I really appreciate it!

Daniel Wooten
2 Water Street
Ellettsville, IN 47429

As a reward for the kind praises, Dan, you will have your wish come true this spring, as Professor Xavier and the rest of the Starjammers appear in their own Prestige Format Limited Series. So be on the lookout for it!

Dear Sword Strokes,

Although I am greatly outraged that Nightcrawler can't even pull off a simple rescue anymore, and has to be yanked out of the path of a speeding car by Lockheed, of all people, I am not going to beg you to give him back his full teleporting abilities, though that would be nice. Likewise, I am not going to urge you to quickly resolve the Kurt/Meggan/Captain Britain triangle, though that would be nice as well. Nor am I going to remind you that a reunion with the X-Men is long overdue. Honest. I won't even mention any of that stuff.

Aren't you glad?

Rather, there are three main points to this letter, and they are as follows:

I. LEADERSHIP

Who exactly is the leader of Excalibur? Although I've never seen them actually hold formal elections or anything, I seem to recall reading in some letters page that it is Brian. That being the case, all I can say is that I think it ought to be Nightcrawler. He tends to give most of the orders and make most of the decisions anyway, so you might as well make it official. Besides, of the two, Nightcrawler is the only one who has any real experience in working with a team, while Cap has spent most of his career as a solo hero. Much as I hate to have to point it out, Brian's a lush. Do you really want a team leader who doesn't know his own limits?

II. RACHEL

This one may seem a bit off-the-wall at first, but bear with me. Has it ever occurred to you to have Rachel meet Franklin Richards? Perhaps it's slipped your mind. Chris, but some of us remember that in that pesky alternate future of hers, Rachel and the grown-up Franklin were lovers. I just thought it might be interesting to see how she reacts to the pint-sized version.

While we're on the subject, does anyone else think it's strange that Rachel has never once thought of Franklin since arriving in our time? I mean, she's mourned her whole society, her friends in the X-Men, and her parents, but I've never seen her stare sentimentally off into space and think about her Sentinel-squished boyfriend. Just curious.

III. KITTY

Just wanted to add my voice to the others in assuring Kitty not to worry. She's about ten to the twenty-third (a very big number) times better looking than Rachel. So there!

Scott R. McFadden
2105 Alton Drive
Kokomo, IN 46901

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi, heroes! Well, it was bound to happen! Now that Marvel has conquered the publishing world it looks like movie stardom will be next! Believe it or not, a bunch of your bullpen buddies and I have just finished doing a scene for a new feature film starring Eric Roberts, who plays a comic book artist! It's an adventure mystery called "Into Thin Air" and it should be hitting theaters around the country later this year.

You see, they wanted to show a scene where Roberts is talking to his editor in the comic book bullpen. Instead of cooking up some fictional company, writer/director Larry Cohen asked if he could simply bring his camera crew to Marvel's own headquarters! Well, that wasn't possible because it would have taken too long and none of us would have gotten any work done for all that time, but—we did the next best thing! We helped Larry create a set that looks just like our Marvel menagerie. Then, to make it even more realistic, the biggest hams among us actually volunteered to play ourselves during the shooting, so you'll be able to see us in the movie! The only problem is, now that some of our corny crew have gotten a taste of show biz, how do we manage to chain 'em back to their drawing boards again?!

For those of you who can't stand the suspense, you'll find even more info about this earth-shattering media event in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #80 where I devoted my whole Soapbox page to providing all the delectable details. As for the rest of you, be forewarned! I'll be back again next 'ish with still more items of incalculable insignificance!

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM: Let's all wish Epic Comics editor Daring Dan Chichester the best of luck as he embarks on a full-time freelance writing career. And while we're at it, let's welcome to the Marvel Universe the following new assistant editors. All the way from California, Gallant Gary Barnum has stepped into Slim Jim DiGiovanna's old job of assisting Breath-taking Bobbie Chase, while the Slim One has moved to California (was this some sort of swap?). All the way from Hoboken, Deirious Dan Cuddy has signed on to be Arachnid Jim Salicrup's right hand man on all the Spidey titles. Gargantuan Glenn Herdling was kicked downstairs to work in our manufacturing department to make sure all the comics are stapled properly, among other important duties. Big Barry Butter, the one-time president of the Committee to Abolish the She-Hulk, has mended his ways and has become Jumbo Jim Salicrup's left hand man on MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, replacing Diligent Dwight Jon Zimmerman, who sashayed over to our Domestic Licensing Department. Exuberant Eric Fein has joined Uncanny Danny Fingerhott to bring ALPHA FLIGHT, MOON KNIGHT, and the rest, to new heights of glory. And in case you're wondering about Mad Marcus McLaurin, he's just been promoted to Managing Editor to replace Gregory Wright who was just promoted to replace the departing Dan Chichester. Now then, Greg's former aide-de-camp Evanescent Evan Skoinick has just jumped ship to Scintillating Sid Jabobson's STAR line to replace Lovely Lisa Trusiani who has also stepped into the freelance arena. Greg has tapped his former college intern, Sizzling Suzanne Dell'Orto to serve as his new assistant. Whew! Let's hope this new crew sticks around a while. It gets a tad confusing trying to explain these office shuffles all the time!

ITEM: Hey, you know how the past few years we've tied all our annuals together into one epic storyline, such as the unforgettable "Atlantis Attacks," or the legendary "Evolutionary War"? Well, this year, we've decided to do a little something different. We'll be doing several shorter multi-parters in our annuals, instead of one great big one. Each story will spread out over three or four annuals, instead of going across the board. The first annual epic will be called "Life Form," in which a new creature is created and goes on to become more and more powerful. As the creature's strength level increases, so does the power level of his opponents! The saga of the life form will be told in this year's PUNISHER, DAREDEVIL, INCREDIBLE HULK, and SILVER SURFER annuals. After "Life Form," look for further annual epics, including a saga connecting the various AVENGERS titles, and one involving the SPIDER-MAN line.

ITEM: For those of you who've been waiting for Mighty Marvel to make a big splash in video games, wait no more! Instead, rush out to your nearest video game store and pick up "The Revenge of Shinobi" from Sega-Genesis. It's an action-packed game featuring none other than... the Amazing Spider-Man! Yes, that's right, of Web-Head shows up at the sixth level, and gives the player a very hard time. Our own vidiot, Craig Anderson, recommends the game very highly, saying "the graphics are incredible." Craig added that Spidey is "very hard to beat." That should count as no surprise to any of Spidey's villains! "Revenge of Shinobi" features Spidey at his web-slinging, wall-crawling best. But "Revenge of Shinobi" is but the beginning of our assault on the video field. There will be more to come in the months ahead. Who says this isn't the Mighty Marvel Age of Video Games?



- ☐ AVENGERS WEST COAST #59
- ☐ CAMP CANDY #2
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #371
- ☐ DAREDEVIL #281
- ☐ NAMOR THE SUB-MARINER #3
- ☐ STEELTOWN ROCKERS #3
- ☐ WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #65
- ☐ THE UNCANNY X-MEN #262
- ☐ MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #51
- ☐ BLACK KNIGHT #1
- ☐ THE SENSATIONAL SHE-HULK #16
- ☐ STALKERS #3
- ☐ ELSEWHERE PRINCE #2
- ☐ THE PUNISHER ANNUAL #3
- ☐ —"Lifeform" begins!
- ☐ THE PUNISHER MAGAZINE #11

- ☐ X-MEN SPOTLIGHT: STAR-JAMMERS Limited Series #2
- ☐ CRITICAL MASS Limited Series #5
- ☐ EXCALIBUR ANNUAL #3—By Claremont and Leonard!
- ☐ OPEN SPACE #3
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA Movie Adaptation Graphic Album #1
- ☐ ALF #30
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #333
- ☐ AVENGERS SPOTLIGHT #33
- ☐ THE NEW MUTANTS #90
- ☐ HEATHCLIFF #48
- ☐ GROO THE WANDERER #66
- ☐ THE NTH MAN #13
- ☐ QUASAR #11
- ☐ ALPHA FLIGHT #85
- ☐ GHOST RIDER #2
- ☐ THE SAGA OF THE ORIGINAL HUMAN TORCH Limited Series #2
- ☐ POWER PACK #56
- ☐ WOLVERINE #20
- ☐ INTERFAC #2
- ☐ DAREDEVIL ANNUAL #6—
- ☐ —"Lifeform" Part 2!
- ☐ SAVAGE SWORD #174
- ☐ STRIP #7
- ☐ PLASTIC FORKS #3

- ☐ IRON MAN: ARMOR WARS Trade Paperback
- ☐ THE AVENGERS #318
- ☐ CONAN THE BARBARIAN #233
- ☐ G.I. JOE #10
- ☐ GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #1—The star-spanning saga begins!
- ☐ THE INCREDIBLE HULK #370 —Will the green Hulk return?
- ☐ MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #89
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #238
- ☐ THE PUNISHER #34
- ☐ SILVER SURFER #38
- ☐ MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #52
- ☐ WHAT IF... #14—What if the original Captain Marvel had lived?
- ☐ EXCALIBUR #23
- ☐ HERO Limited Series #2
- ☐ ROBOCOOP #4
- ☐ SHIELD #12
- ☐ THE INCREDIBLE HULK ANNUAL #16—
- ☐ —"Lifeform" Part 3!
- ☐ DOCTOR WHO #160
- ☐ FANTASY ZONE #8
- ☐ THE DESTROYER #9
- ☐ NIGHT BREED #3
- ☐ STREET POET RAY #2—More

- ☐ rap haiku for you!
- ☐ ALF Graphic Album #1—Reprinting ALF's first 3 issues!
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #341
- ☐ IRON MAN #257
- ☐ THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #165
- ☐ THOR #418
- ☐ THE TRANSFORMERS #67
- ☐ X-FACTOR #55—Arch-Angel berserk!
- ☐ CLASSIC X-MEN #48
- ☐ ALIEN LEGION #17
- ☐ CLOAK AND DAGGER #12—Will Dagger's sight return?
- ☐ DR. STRANGE #18
- ☐ MOON KNIGHT #15—The trial of Marc Spector epic!
- ☐ THE NAM #45
- ☐ THE PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL #19
- ☐ SILVER SURFER ANNUAL #3—"Lifeform" Concludes!
- ☐ MARVEL FANFARE #51—A 48-page Silver Surfer epic!
- ☐ CONAN SAGA #17
- ☐ MARVEL REQUIRER #3
- ☐ STRIP #8
- ☐ AKIRA #20
- ☐ BLACK WIDOW Graphic Novel —By Conway and Freeman!